



District Newsletter

City Council District 7

December 2019

Dear Neighbors,

This holiday season, I have a lot to be grateful for. At the top of the list: the privilege of serving you and your neighbors as we build a more vibrant, healthy, and safe District 7. In this issue, you'll read about major topics in our community, like parks projects and Bandera Road. You can also read up on major policies underway at City Hall, including the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan, the Sick & Safe Leave Ordinance, and domestic violence initiatives.

In September, City Council adopted the 2019-2020 City Budget—a balanced budget that includes \$110 million for street maintenance across the city, funding for 16 new police officers, a \$5,000 General Homestead Property Tax Exemption, and \$1.6 million to combat domestic violence. This last point is especially urgent. Earlier this year, City Council commissioned a study on the Status of Women, which found Bexar County to be the deadliest county in Texas for women. In 2018 alone, 29 women died in Bexar County at the hands of men who claimed to love them.

You deserve an open and transparent government. Staying informed and participating in your local government should be easy. If you would like to follow the conversation at City Hall, now you can. Thanks to my Public Participation Initiative and City Council's support, all City Council Committee meetings can be viewed online at www.sanantonio.gov/TVSA. Additionally, you can watch meetings of the: Board of Adjustment, Building Standards Board, Historic Design Review Commission, Planning Commission, and Zoning Commission.

My team and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season.

Yours in public service,

Text DISTRICT7 to 22828 to sign up for weekly email updates on city news!

Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/AnaSandovalD7

Si gustas recibir nuestra carta comunitaria llama a nuestra oficina al número telefónico 210-207-0870.

STATE HIGHWAY 16 BANDERA ROAD

The Bandera Road Task Force Continues!

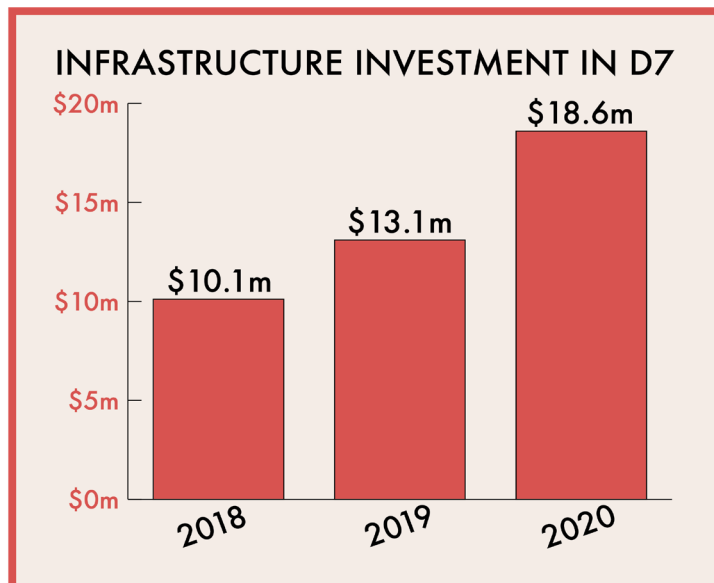
The City of San Antonio, Leon Valley, TxDOT, State Senator José Menéndez, Commissioner Justin Rodriguez, State Representative Ray Lopez, and my office continue to work together to improve Bandera Road. It is the 8th most congested road in the region and one of the top 100 in Texas!

TxDOT is collecting and analyzing traffic data, evaluating potential improvements, and identifying bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along this stretch of Bandera. Complementing TxDOT's work, the City of San Antonio is developing a Corridor Plan for this stretch of Bandera, which will guide future public and private development, public infrastructure investment, and related public policies. Both the work of TxDOT and the City will seek to integrate community input.

TxDOT is conducting an online public meeting from Dec. 10-31. To participate, go to www.txdot.gov and search for "SH 16 Bandera Road." Stay informed about the project by emailing BanderaRoad@pozcam.com to get on the project outreach list. You can also contact Laura Lopez, Public Information Officer, TxDOT San Antonio, 210-615-5839.

Growing Investment in Streets, Sidewalks, & Safety

Investments in our City's infrastructure—our streets, sidewalks, drainage channels, and alleyways—are important investments in the quality of our community and transportation safety. That's why my team and I have worked to secure over \$40 million in infrastructure funding since 2018.



This funding has gone towards rehabilitating older streets, installing and repairing sidewalks, constructing drainage channels, refreshing aging lane stripes, and more. The unprecedented level of funding is in part thanks to the City nearly doubling its street maintenance budget from \$66 million in 2017 to \$110 million in 2019 and 2020. I'm looking forward to seeing the impact of these funds in our community as the year goes on.

Combating Domestic Violence



The rate of domestic violence fatalities in San Antonio have risen steadily since 2015, not just for women, but for men and children as well.

Together, the City and County formed a joint commission and developed a Comprehensive Domestic Violence Plan. In the 2019-2020 Budget, the City set aside \$1.6 million to combat domestic and family violence. This money will be used for a parenting program to reduce child abuse, a school-based violence prevention program in middle schools, improvements to how the Police Dept. handles domestic violence cases, and a domestic violence PSA called, "Love Is..."

Coming to a Park Near You!

There are so many exciting projects scheduled throughout District 7—many of them at some of our favorite parks. Thanks to the City's General Budget and 2017-2022 Bond Package, the Parks Department is hard at work designing new additions for our beloved parks. Here are a few of the upcoming projects to look forward to:

W Quill Park is the newest park in the District 7 park portfolio. The City anticipates installing a walking path and benches this spring and later hosting a community input meeting to consider larger additions to the park.



By this summer, residents visiting **Nani Falcone Park** will notice new shade canopies in the dog park, more security lighting along the walking trail, and additional benches and picnic tables throughout the park. There will also be minor improvements to the parking lot to maximize the space currently available.

A local group of frisbee golfers will work with the City to expand the frisbee golf course at **Nani Falcone Park** to an 21-hole course.

The driving range at **O.P. Schnabel Park** is now expected to open in early spring 2020 after the City completes repairs to the property.

Gilbert Garza Park-goers will be excited to hear that the City plans to construct a new pavilion, plant trees, and improve the park's lighting by this summer.

The City's vacant lot at **Zachry and Sutton Dr.** is now officially a **pocket park**! As such, the City will install a new children's play area (including a jungle gym!), a walking path, benches, and trees throughout 2020 to claim the space for the community and children in the area.

Students Welcome at City Council



We welcomed the third graders from Woodlawn Academy to tour City Council Chambers and host a mock council meeting, where, after much deliberation, they voted to start classes later in the morning and have healthy food options in the cafeteria. Would your class be interested in visiting, too? Let us know.

Climate Action & Adaptation Plan

On October 17, City Council overwhelmingly approved its first ever Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The plan aims to protect people and property from extreme heat, rain, and floods, while supporting a transition to clean, reliable energy. As a first action, Council plans to launch the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program which gives property owners access to low-cost financing from private lenders for energy and water saving enhancements on commercial and non-profit properties.

Sick & Safe Leave Ordinance

On November 2, City Council approved changes to the Sick & Safe Leave Ordinance. The new ordinance would require local employers to allow employees to earn one hour of paid sick or safe leave for every 30 hours worked. Safe leave can be used to handle business related to domestic violence, such as seeking legal help. The ordinance was set to go into effect on December 1, 2019, but some business groups sued the city and requested to put the ordinance on hold until the case is heard in court. On November 22, a local judge granted them their request.

Let's Have Coffee!

Each month, I have one-on-one coffee meetings with District 7 residents to hear what's important for their neighborhood. Coffee appointments are held the first Saturday of each month and are 15-minutes long.

To make an appointment, call 210-207-0870 or send an email to district7@sanantonio.gov.

Your District 7 Offices

Plaza de Armas (Downtown)

115 Plaza de Armas, Ste. 202
210-207-7044

Brass Professional Center

4414 Centerview Dr, Ste. 160
Finesilver Building
210-207-0870

Monday - Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Or by appointment.

Holiday Safety Tips from SAPD

Shopping

- Don't leave your purses or wallets unattended (even for a minute!).
- Don't carry a lot of money.
- Put cash, credit cards, and identification in different places or pockets.
- Make sure you're aware of your surroundings, even if you're rushing!
- Never leave children alone in store or car.
- If children get lost, tell them to find a police officer or a cashier.

Vehicle

- Park in a well-lit area.
- Always lock your doors.
- Use an anti-theft device like an alarm, steering wheel lock, or kill switch.
- Hide valuables, bags from plain sight.

Home

- Don't put gifts/tree at the window.
- If you're having a party, hide your valuables.
- Going out-of-town? Ask neighbors to pick up your mail/newspaper.
- Cut or tear up your boxes. Don't advertise what you got for the holidays!